

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1-8 are now present in the application. The specification and claims 1-4 and 6-8 have been amended. Claims 1 and 6 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Specification Objection

The specification has been objected to due to the presence of minor informalities. In view of the foregoing amendments, in which the Examiner's helpful suggestions have been followed, it is respectfully submitted that this objection has been addressed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this objection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 2-4, 7 and 8 been objected to due to presence of minor informalities. In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that these objections have been addressed. Accordingly, these objections have been obviated and/or rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 & 103

Claims 6-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wake, U.S. Patent No. 4,951,485. Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wake in view of Keyaki, U.S. Patent No. 5,031,944. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections have been obviated and/or rendered moot. As the Examiner will note, independent claims 1 and 6 have been amended to address the Examiner's rejections.

Independent claim 1 recites a combination of elements including "the movable hook of one of the two sliders being located at a separation position in the unlocking condition for disengaging the moveable hook of the one of the two sliders with the hook of the other one of the two sliders and at a latch position in the locking condition for engaging the moveable hook of the one of the two sliders with the hook of the other one of the two sliders".

Independent claim 6 recites a combination of elements including "the moveable hook having a release position corresponding to the unlocking condition for disengaging the moveable hook with a corresponding hook of the corresponding latch lock structure and a latch position corresponding to the locking condition for engaging the moveable hook with the corresponding hook of the corresponding latch lock structure".

Applicants respectfully submit that the above combinations of elements as set forth in amended independent claims 1 and 6 are not disclosed nor suggested by the references relied on by the Examiner.

Wake discloses a dial lock device for slide fastener including a dial mechanism 116 and a lock prong 115 (see FIGs. 5 and 6). Wake teaches that when rotating the dial mechanism 116, the lock prong 115 is urged by the spring 113 to thrust at its pawl 115a through the aperture 114 into the guide channel 104 for interengagement with either row of coupling elements E; the lock assembly 100 is thus locked in position against movement on the coupling elements E (see FIG. 9; col. 3, lines 44-58). In other words, Wake's dial lock device merely has a single slider and engages the lock prong with the coupling elements E to perform the lock function. Wake fails to teach the lock prong 115 is engaged with any hook of the other nonexistent slider. Therefore, Wake fails to teach "the movable hook of one of the two sliders... in the unlocking condition for disengaging the moveable hook of the one of the two sliders with the hook of the other one of the two sliders and... in the locking condition for engaging the moveable hook of the one of the two sliders with the hook of the other one of the two sliders" as recited in claim 1 and "the moveable hook having a release position corresponding to the unlocking condition for disengaging the moveable hook with a corresponding hook of the corresponding latch lock structure and a latch position corresponding to the locking condition for engaging the moveable hook with the corresponding hook of the corresponding latch lock structure" as recited in claim 6.

With regard to the Examiner's reliance on Keyaki, this reference has only been relied on for its teachings of two sliders. This reference also fails to disclose the above combinations of elements as set forth in amended independent claims 1 and 6. In particular, by modifying Wake in view of Keyaki's two sliders, the lock prongs 115 of the two sliders are still independently engaged with the coupling elements E to perform the lock function. Each lock prong 115 still fails to be engaged with any hook of the other slider. Accordingly, this reference fails to cure the deficiencies of Wake.

Accordingly, neither of the references utilized by the Examiner individually or in combination teach or suggest the limitations of amended independent claims 1 and 6 or their dependent claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims clearly define over the teachings of the references relied on by the Examiner.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but merely to show the state of the prior art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

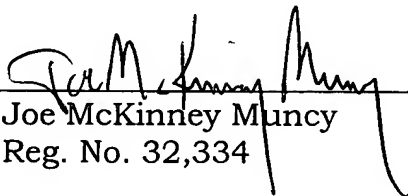
It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Joe McKinney Muncy, Registration No. 32,334 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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